(2) REMISSION OF $12\frac{1}{2}$ PER CENT IN THE EXISTING RATE OF ASSESSMENT ON RYOTWARI LANDS IN THE PRESIDENCY

* Mr. T. S. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—" Mr. President, I beg to move the following resolution:—

> '*This Council recommends to the Government that a remission of at least $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent in the existing rate of assessment on ryotwari lands in the Presidency be granted during current fasli.*'

" Sir, I propose to be very brief, for I take it that there may not be much time for the resolution to be discussed in detail. Before I state my case in support of the resolution, let me explain its scope. I have asked for remission of at least $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. I know that in some districts the owners of ryotwari lands are claiming 25 per cent. Recently a deputation of Tanjore mirasdars waited on His Excellency the Governor and pleaded for a remission of 25 per cent. I also understand that one hon. Member representing the Tanjore district in this House has also given notice of an amendment to my resolution stating that a remission of 25 per cent should be made. But the main reason which induced me to fix the figure at $12\frac{1}{2}$ per cent is my anxiety that practical effect should be given to this resolution. It is not my intention merely to raise the question and leave it to the Government to decide it as they like. I want to co-operate with the Government in this matter. It is not merely as a Member of the Opposition that I have given notice of this resolution. I know, Sir, that it will be possible for the Government to give effect to this resolution. Due to the great efforts made by the Government and especially the hon. the Finance Member, the Government have been able to reduce the expenditure both recurring and non-recurring in the budget of this Presidency. I know with what great trouble and anxiety the hon. the Finance Member worked to get the budget of this Presidency balanced. When most other Provinces have deficit budgets, our Province stands to-day in the fortunate position of having a balanced budget. Our thanks are due to the hon. the Finance Member for having steered the Province during troublous times to the haven of safety. But at the same time as the Mover of this resolution, which indicates that the agriculturists should have some benefit, I am anxious that Government should give consideration to the plight in which the agriculturists of our Province are placed because of the heavy fall in prices of foodstuffs.

" The other portion of the resolution to which I would like to refer is the wording 'in the Presidency.' Though it may be that in the case of Tanjore and a few other recently settled districts there is a stronger case for remission, I feel that there is a case really for the whole Presidency. My resolution is based mainly on the fact that prices of foodstuffs, especially paddy, have fallen very low and the agriculturist is not able to get that margin of profit which he is entitled to get from the land.

" There is also another portion of the resolution to which I shall refer, viz., the words 'current fasli.' I gave notice of this resolution because, as I said before, I wanted that it should be given practical effect. I am anxious, Sir, that even in the current fasli relief should be given